

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Whaddon Church of England First School, Stock Lane,
Whaddon, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock and Genni Elliott

Site Code: WFS16/194

(SP 8069 3394)

**Whaddon Church of England First School, Stock Lane,
Whaddon, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Whaddon Church of England First School**

by Kyle Beaverstock and Genni Elliott
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WFS 16/194

December 2016

Summary

Site name: Whaddon Church of England First School, Stock Lane, Whaddon, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 8069 3394

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 14th December 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: WFS 16/194

Area of site: 0.62ha (school)

Summary of results: No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified. The former pond as seen on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map was post-medieval in date. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 16.12.16 Steve Preston✓ 16.12.16
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**Whaddon Church of England First School, Stock Lane, Whaddon, Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire
An Archaeological Evaluation**

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Report 16/194

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Whaddon Church of England First School, Stock Lane, Whaddon, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire (SP 8069 3394). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Ltd, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DP on behalf of Whaddon Church of England First School, Stock Lane, Whaddon, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Planning permission (app 16/02156/ACC) has been sought from Aylesbury Vale District Council for the construction of a detached timber outbuilding for use as new classroom space. Consultation by Armour Heritage with the Archaeology Officer at Buckinghamshire County Council has indicated the requirement for an archaeological evaluation.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Farr 2016) produced by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage and approved by Mr Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer of Buckinghamshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the District.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Jon Tierney on 14th December 2016 and the site code is WFS 16/194. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

Location, topography and geology

The village of Whaddon is located to the south-west of Milton Keynes, a little beyond its urban limit (Fig. 1). The School itself is located on the south side of Stock Lane, to the south of Church Lane and St Mary's Church. The proposed building is to be located to the south of the existing buildings within the field (Fig. 2).

In general the land slopes slightly up to the south-west with a height above Ordnance Datum of approximately 135m. The underlying geology is recorded as being Till (stony clay, generally with flint and chalk pebbles) (BGS 2002).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (AH 2016) which drew attention to the fact that the school is located within an Archaeological Notification Area, as designated in the Buckinghamshire HER, for medieval earthworks. The HER records that a Roman road (*Viatores* Road 175A) is projected to cross the playing field to the south of the site itself. A medieval enclosure ditch recorded by survey and present on aerial photography is shown to be partly present within the proposal site. This ditch is likely to be either a moat or the village enclosure ditch and is some 3-4m wide. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the School as already present with a large pond and trees located in the area of the site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development and assess the degree of existing impacts to any archaeological deposits.

The specific research aims of the project are to:

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development;
- identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
- assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and
- produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential, and inform an archaeological mitigation strategy.

A single trench measuring 13m by 1.8m was to be excavated by a JCB-type machine using a toothless grading bucket under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. This was to be machined down to natural geology or archaeological deposits, whichever was stratigraphically higher. Where appropriate the trench was to be cleaned and any features sufficiently sampled to characterise and date them. If it became clear that the entire trench was located within the former pond shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map then a sondage was to be excavated at one end of the trench to establish the date and nature of the deposits.

Results

A single trench (Trench 1) was excavated as intended (Fig. 3). It was aligned NNW–SSE and measured 13m by 1.8m by an average of 0.40m deep. The geology was found to consist of 0.20m of topsoil, above 0.22m of subsoil above 0.15m of yellowish-brown, sandy clay natural geology. The Trench is summarized in Appendix 1.

The former pond was present for most of the trench and a sondage (1) was excavated through its fill to reveal natural geology at a depth of 1m (Fig. 4). A single dark brownish grey silty clay fill was observed which contained modern brick, tile and china which was not retained (Pl. 1).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the evaluation successfully showed the presence of the pond seen on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map and that the date of its backfilling is clearly modern. No other features or finds of archaeological interest were observed and therefore the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

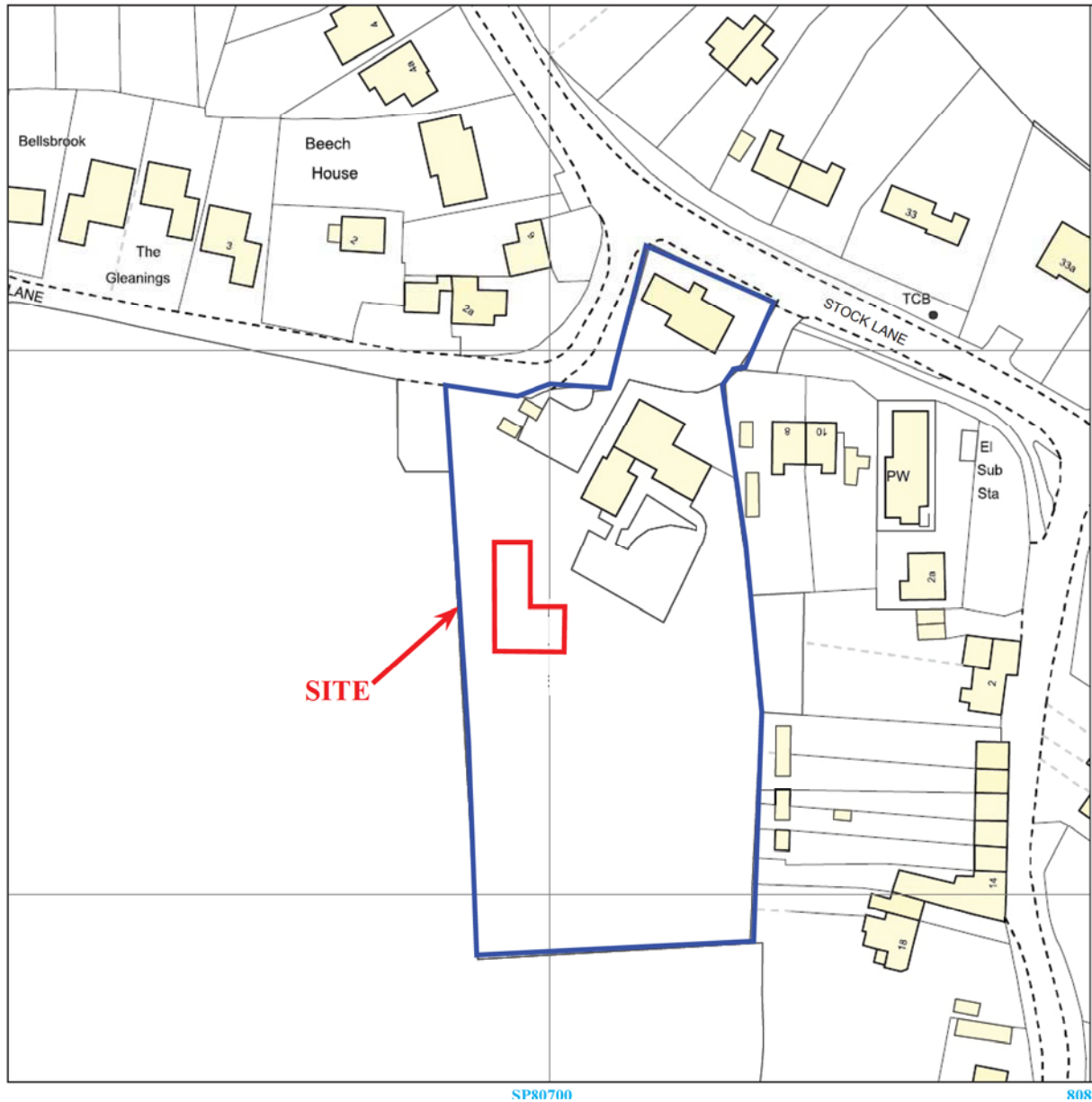
References

- AH 2016, Whaddon Church of England First School, Stock Lane, Whaddon, Milton Keynes: Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment, Armour Heritage project AH 400, Frome
- BGS, 2002, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 219, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Farr, S, 2016, Whaddon CoE First School, Stock Lane, Whaddon, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation, Armour Heritage project AH 445, Frome
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	13	1.8	1m max	0-0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.42m subsoil, 0.42m+ natural geology. Features; pond shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map.



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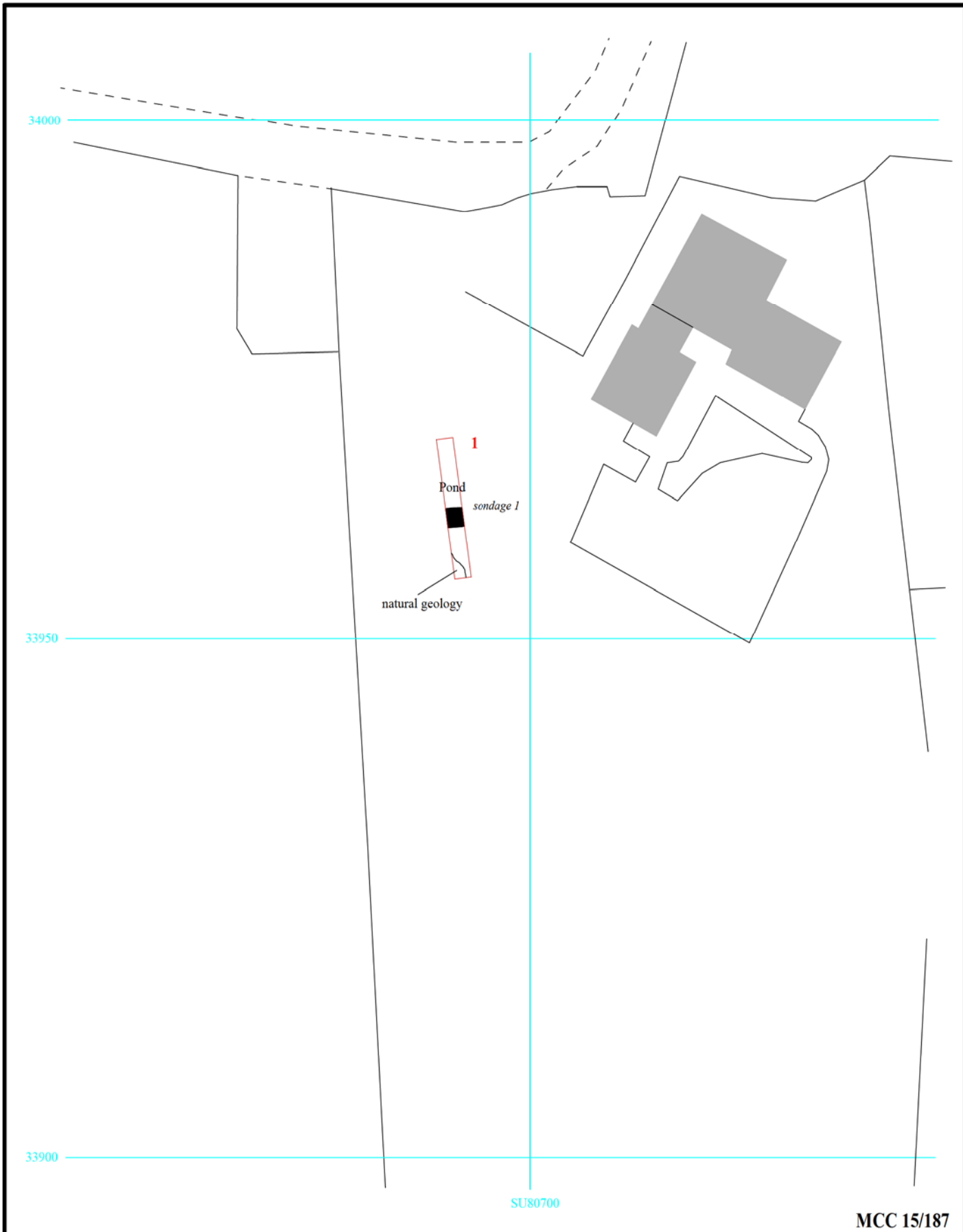


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Stock Lane.

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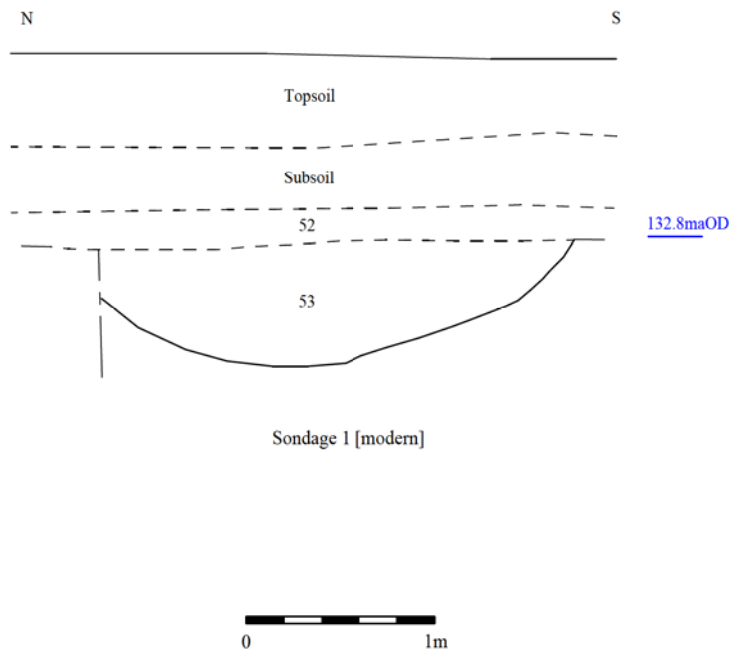
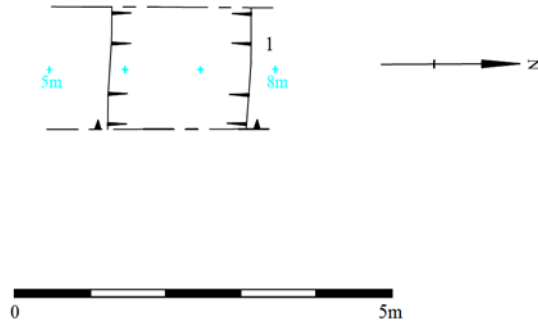
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Figure 3. Location of Trench 1.



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Trench 1



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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, Sondage 1, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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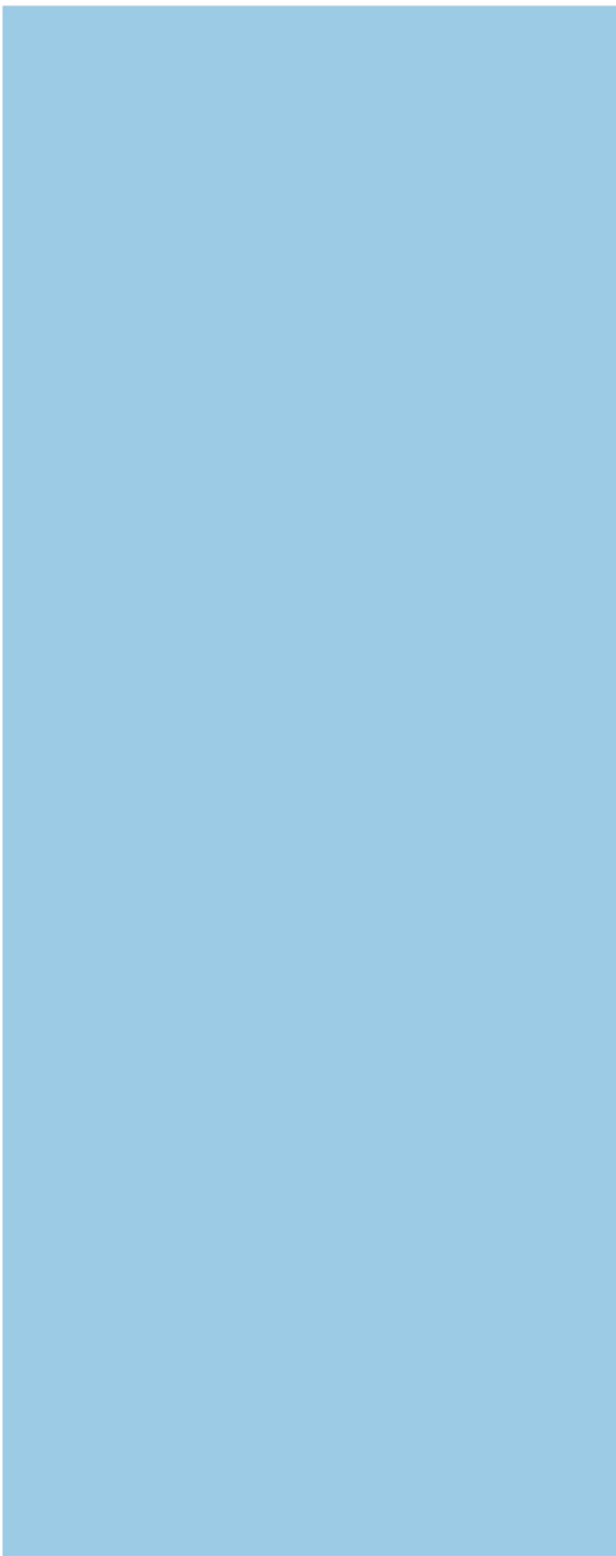
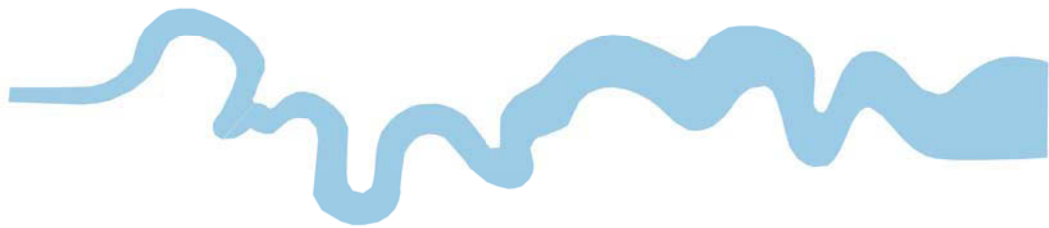
Plates 1 - 2.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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